

FEMA Updates Flood Maps in Kern County and Bakersfield

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OAKLAND, Calif. — The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is updating flood maps along Lake Isabella and the Kern River around Bakersfield. New maps identify the current flood hazards and provide data to help building officials, contractors, and homeowners make effective mitigation decisions, thereby contributing to safer and more resilient communities.

Before the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) become effective, there is a 90-day appeal period from Aug. 17 to Nov. 15, 2020. During that time, individuals with technical and scientific information, such as detailed hydraulic or hydrologic data, can appeal the flood risk information on the preliminary maps.

Flood hazards are dynamic and change frequently for many reasons, including weather patterns, erosion, and community development. FEMA, Kern County, and the city of Bakersfield worked together to collect new or updated flood hazard data to revise the flood maps and reflect these changes, which may also affect building or insurance requirements.

The local mapping project is part of a nationwide effort led by FEMA to increase local knowledge of flood risks and support actions to address and reduce the effects of flooding on new and improved structures. FEMA encourages residents to review the preliminary flood maps to learn about local flood risks, potential future flood insurance requirements, and identify any concerns or questions about the information provided. To view the preliminary FIRMs, visit fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata.

Risk of flooding affects almost every corner of the nation. In total, 98% of counties have experienced a flood event, which makes floods the most common and widespread of all weather-related natural disasters.

For more information, visit the Kern County [website at kernpublicworks.com/building-and-development/floodplain-management](https://kernpublicworks.com/building-and-development/floodplain-management) or



contact the county at (661) 862-5083 or (661) 862-5071. City of Bakersfield Development Services can be reached at (661) 326-3720 or (661) 326-3607.

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